

## Pawtucketville Neighborhood Plan: Minutes from the Public Meetings

<b>First Public Meeting</b>  Date: Monday, November 1, 2004 Time: 7-9 PM Place: Dr. An Wang Middle School, Auditorium Attendance: roughly 50 people	<b>Second Public Meeting</b>  Date: Saturday, November 20, 2004 Time: 9-11am Place: UMass Multi-purpose Room Attendance: 10
<b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group homes: Who are they threats to? If well-managed and taken care of, they would not be much of a threat. But we want to have a plan going forward so that we don't have to react to bad development.</li> <li>Are there any guidelines on the concentration of homes? On the state level, there are rules, but on the city level, group homes are seen as multi-family homes.</li> <li>What are the reinvestment tools that are available for existing structures? The City does have funds for housing rehab, business façade improvements, lead paint removal, etc.</li> <li>We have building and health codes but not enough staff to enforce them.</li> </ul>	
<b>Economic Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can we get more parking in business districts? Car condos are an option. Recently, an 11-space lot was put on Bridge Street. Shared parking is also another option; for example on Mammoth Rd.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We should provide more LRTA buses on W. Meadow Rd. for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable building standards should be incorporated into design standards.</li> <li>Landscaping seems to be just limited to grass. We should look into other ways to landscape.</li> <li>Broadway and School St can be an inspiration for properties near the University for restoring architectural features.</li> <li>What kind of mix of businesses should we have so that local people and other businesses will actually use them.</li> <li>Do we have a fund for improving streetscapes like a downtown venture fund?</li> <li>There isn't enough parking in the business districts. There needs to be better turnover at the meters or businesses must rely on foot traffic.</li> <li>The storefront on Pawtucket St. has turnover every 2 years. Right now it is a Nextel store.</li> <li>Perhaps Mammoth and University Ave can be one-way streets</li> </ul>

<p>the students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We should provide shuttle buses to allow people in the neighborhood, especially seniors, to get around P'ville. Shuttle buses can run to business districts and recreational areas like the boat ramp and to the State Forest.</li> <li>▪ We should make traffic calming on Bedford Ave. a priority.</li> <li>▪ A second Tyngsborough Bridge is a good idea to reduce congestion on bridges.</li> <li>▪ The loss of the Rourke Bridge is a serious threat. Proper maintenance is needed on all the bridges so that we don't lose anymore.</li> <li>▪ Four lanes on new Rourke Bridge should be considered.</li> <li>▪ The Aiken Bridge and O'Donnell Bridge traffic arrangements work fine. Perhaps we can make them permanent one-way bridges and try it out for six months.</li> <li>▪ There is a lot of speeding on Varum Ave. We can try raised streets like in Moulton Square.</li> <li>▪ Traffic calming is needed on W. Meadow Rd where a lot of children pass by.</li> <li>▪ We should focus on streets with no sidewalks. New developments should be required to put in sidewalks and street lighting if they don't exist.</li> </ul>	<p>like in Somerville.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riverside and University Ave have no pedestrian signals.</li> <li>▪ Inset lighting may be a good option for streets in P'ville.</li> <li>▪ VFW Highway should be a priority.</li> <li>▪ Pedestrian access is more important in eastern P'ville especially to go to the downtown.</li> <li>▪ More transportation options should be provided e.g. bicycles to the University students.</li> <li>▪ Flooding comes up to the VFW</li> <li>▪ People don't like to use overpasses</li> <li>▪ The University is going to put in a garage near the baseball park on the opposite side of the River that will have 700 spaces. The project will start in spring and take a year to complete. Another 700 space garage will be built afterwards near Riverside St in Pawtucketville. Both projects will take about 3 years total. The University has not heard any complaints about the plans to build the garages.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do we need to improve the perception of safety in Pawtucketville? The wording seems negative. Maybe this is not a priority.</li> <li>▪ Are the parks unsafe?</li> <li>▪ Lighting is needed on streets especially one lane roads.</li> <li>▪ I don't feel safe on Brooksid e Street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Street maintenance, sweeping is an issue.</li> <li>▪ The residents have to clean our own catch basins. If the city swept the streets, they wouldn't be so filled.</li> <li>▪ Near Lowell General, there is a lot of vandalism mostly by school kids. There is more crime there than is perceived.</li> <li>▪ Concern that schools will reach capacity soon.</li> <li>▪ How can we use school buildings for the community especially for recreation?</li> <li>▪ There has been a drop-off in kegs and large parties because of efforts by the Lowell and UMass police. Tell residents to contact UMass if there are large parties in the neighborhood.</li> </ul>

<b>Natural Resources and Recreation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wang soccer field can be better used</li> <li>▪ 520 Varnum Ave is a key open space</li> <li>▪ Dog Park</li> <li>▪ How to prevent development on wetlands like on Old Ferry Rd. and Varnum Ave. If development can happen on these streets, what land is untouchable especially since projects that are not approved by the City can be appealed at the State level?</li> <li>▪ Water park vs. a city pool. There was talk about a water park in P'ville several years ago. Is a city pool doable?</li> <li>▪ Height of the River. Who controls it? The neighborhood should have input.</li> <li>▪ Park space near railroad.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will the canal walk access fit in with historic design of the surrounding areas?</li> <li>▪ The University discourages students from going to the River because it is unsafe. The University and community members can partner up and clean along the River. Bring police on bikes to the River. More lights are needed. Homeless people go to the River.</li> <li>▪ The River is a great resource, but access is difficult because of the highway.</li> </ul>
<b>Culture</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Graveyard near river is historic, from the Colonial Period.</li> <li>▪ Al, a historian for P'ville.</li> <li>▪ Many of the historical colonial buildings have gone down already. There are many historic homes on Varnum Ave that should get historic markers.</li> <li>▪ Get the National Park involved in educating people about P'ville's history. Have tours in the neighborhood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How can we connect students to the community?</li> </ul>
<b>Land Use and Zoning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include "appropriate development" in residential districts as well. There is a sense that the neighborhood is not against development as long as it is appropriate.</li> <li>▪ For large developments, 2 parking spaces per unit is not adequate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development in abutting towns like Dracut affects P'ville.</li> </ul>